*The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"The House will now take up consideration of item No. 4 on the agenda."

APPOINTMENT OF A COMMITTEE TO ENQUIRE INTO THE ECONOMIC CONDITION OF KISTNA, GODAVARI EAST AND GODAVARI WEST.

* Mr. J. BHEEMAYYA :—"The resolution that stands in my name runs as follows :— 1-15 p.m.

"*This Council recommends to the Government that (a) for the purpose of making an open public enquiry into the economic condition of the tract as preliminary to the resettlement of the districts of Godavari East, Godavari West and Kistna, Government be pleased to constitute a committee, not less than half of the members of which being elected by this Council; and (b) pending the said enquiry the resettlement scheme report of the Kistna, West Godaavri and East Godavari districts be held in abeyance*'."

The hon. Member in moving his resolution spoke in Telugu.

* Mr. G. HARISARVOTTAMA RAO :—"Sir, I rise to second this motion, because I feel that resettlements in this Presidency are being conducted in a very high-handed manner. The economic condition of the people is little thought of. I have before me a very voluminous report by the Settlement Officer. Before I proceed to discuss in detail the scheme report of the Special Settlement Officer, I wish to make a few general observations in regard to the irrigation works that are concerned with the resettlement. This area was in the middle of the 19th century one of the most arid portions in Southern India. It was affected by famines and, in spite of schemes being proposed from time to time, no scheme was taken up until a terrible blow fell upon the land about the year 1833-34. It was reserved to a great sympathetic officer, Mr. Cotton, to propose the starting of irrigation works and it was in consequence of the terrible famines that were devastating the area that this area was brought under cultivation. This fact has especially to be remembered because I hold that any resettlement officer if he has to be reasonable must take into account the economic interests that exist at the time of the inauguration of the scheme and make due allowance for the adjustment of national life; though we all admit that Government should increase their sources of income for meeting the expenditure on works that they have undertaken on behalf of the population. The first settlement operations were begun about the year 1830. This settlement proceeded, according to the authority of the present Special Settlement Officer, on very wrong lines so far as the uplands were concerned. The present Special Settlement Officer says: 'After all, these patchwork tables framed for the upland taluks of the Godavari district embody the most irrational gradations of rates of settlement in the history of the ryotwari settlement.' Even with regard to the classification of the wet areas, the Settlement Officer holds that it was not properly done at the time. What happened later? There was resettlement again in 1899. In that resettlement uplands were not touched, the island Divi was not touched. What was touched after all? Only the delta was touched. Now we are on the third settlement. This Special Settlement Officer will admit in general the very grave difficulties that the ryots have to suffer in these three districts. But he has cleverly managed to give an impression that these districts deserve an enhancement of rent. The report is very well

[Mr. G. Harisarvottama Rao] [27th November 1928

written, I admit. I admit also that it has been very cleverly written but what I must say is that the Settlement Officer has conceived the whole in prejudice. He is staggered by the 'riot' of cultivation. He does not remember the real ryot. He is struck with the seeming affluence. He has magnificently commenced his report with green fields and expansive waters, fine roads, railways and canals and described the whole thing in such a way that the first impression you get is that the ryot lives in a paradise. When once the Settlement Officer proceeds with this pre-possession, I should call it prejudice--it is very difficult to send him out of that impression and make him settle his recommendations in a judicial manner. Not only he but also some one or two Collectors concerned have been biassed by the view that there has been improvement in these districts within the last few tens of years. One of the Collectors makes reference in a particular place and says that if you give the right of appeal to the ryots from the Settlement Officer to the Collector then there will be no end to it and there is no need to give this power to the ryots. I shall in due course refer to the several statements that have been made by this Special Settlement Officer and show what a special prejudice he has against the ryots of the districts concerned."

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" The hon. Member has exceeded his time-limit. I request him to close his speech before we rise for lunch."

Mr. G. HARISARVOTTAMA RAO :—" I am sorry. I shall content myself by showing how the Special Settlement Officer has gone wrong in estimating the economic condition of the districts, and how he has taken a rosy view of the co-operative credit societies and other things in those districts."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" If the hon. Member wants to speak on the resolution further, he can do so to-morrow."

Mr. G. HARISARVOTTAMA RAO :—" Yes, Sir."

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" Let me know the time he requires."

Mr G. HARISARVOTTAMA RAO :—" Thirty minutes."

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" That is too much to bargain. I think the hon. Member has got a resolution of his own to move. Does he propose to move it ?

Mr. G. HARISARVOTTAMA RAO :—" No, Sir."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" Then he has the full 30 minutes."

Mr. G. HARISARVOTTAMA RAO :—" Thank you, Sir. I merely wish to say that the Settlement Officer might have finished his work by merely making a report in words to the following effect : 'Kistna, West Godavari and East Godavari are now provided with splendid canals. They are now provided with splendid railway communications. They are now provided with plenty of increased prices. They are now provided with a large number of co-operative credit societies They are now provided with luxuries of life that have come in the train of the 20th century. Therefore there is need for enhancement of Government revenue. I propose in consequence that the tax be raised.' On reading the report of the Special Settlement Officer I find that that is the impression created upon one's mind. I shall specifically mention a few instances which will show the tendency of the Special Settlement Officer. There are two points which he has clearly touched upon and which are very disadvantageous to the people

27th November 1928] [Mr. G. Harisarvottama Rao]

of the districts. The first is the upland regions. Not only does he give his own opinion but also gives the opinion of Mr. Clarke who agreed with him. The Revenue Board would not accept that opinion. The Government upheld the Board of Revenue's view and levied a percentage enhancement of 33⅓ per cent at the last resettlement. With all these he comes to the conclusion holding as he does that the classification was particularly wrong, holding as he does that the upland territories were badly touched by this wrong classification, holding as he does that the wet areas in the upland regions have been very wrongly classified, that an increase may be made in the settlement rate for the uplands. Again, he shows very great consideration for Kolair lake regions and he describes those regions in minute detail as to how he is anxious to show sympathy for the people of the inundated Kolair lake regions who are suffering for want of drainage facilities. He says all this, but when he comes to the conclusion he changes his opinion and says 'I shall adjust the enhancement of rent in such a manner as to make the Government not to lose one pie of what they were previously getting'."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" The hon. Member will continue his speech to-morrow."

The House then adjourned for lunch.

After Lunch (2-30 p.m.)

XIII

ADJOURNMENT MOTION *RE* THE APPOINTMENTS IN THE REGISTRATION DEPARTMENT.

* Mr. SAMI VENKATACHALAM CHETTI :—" Mr. President, I beg to move that the business of the House be adjourned to discuss a definite matter of urgent public importance, to wit, the policy recently adopted by the Government in regard to recent appointments in the Registration department.

" In raising a discussion on the recent instructions of the Government issued in regard to the Registration service, it is not my intention or my desire to rouse the dormant communal feelings of communities or castes. It is my desire that justice should be meted out to those who are already in service irrespective of caste, creed or religion. It is, therefore, my earnest wish that hon. Members of this Council should view this question dispassionately without importing communal considerations beyond what is essentially required. It is necessary that this question should be viewed firstly from the point of view whether the Local Government have complied with the spirit and even the letter of the Government of India Act in regard to the services and also whether the power delegated to them to make rules has been properly used. Though the Local Government obtained power from the Secretary of State for India to make rules by delegation as early as 1926, no such rules were to our knowledge made till so late as September 1928.

" Under the provisions of section 90-B (2) of the Government of India Act, the Secretary of State for India reserves to himself the power to make rules with regard to all services and to delegate such powers either to Local Government or to the Legislature. In virtue of this provision, the rules